

ADVOCATES COAST DEFENSES.

Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin, Thinks, However, Men Should Be Provided to Man Them.

"I am in favor of strengthening the navy to meet all the requirements of the nation," said Representative Cooper, of Wisconsin, "and it is just as important to build coast defenses. These two important works can be carried on simultaneously. Our country should be fortified in such a way as to make it secure from attacks, and it is also important to preserve the fortifications already constructed and provide enough men to care for the guns. It is a well-established fact that the guns mounted in the emplacements at the coast cities deteriorate at the rate of 25 per cent. a year, and the importance of providing enough men to care for them is manifest. We have already spent \$63,000,000 in fortifying our coast, and unless men are provided to look after these improvements they will be almost worthless in a few years.

"I am heartily in favor of the Endicott plan, which provides for a system of fortifications at 27 ports, requiring 687 heavy guns and 824 mortars of modern construction. Since the war with Spain the country is deeply interested in all matters pertaining to the national defense, and the people are willing the public funds should be expended in making the country safe from attack. There is a disposition on the part of the members of congress to be more liberal in this respect than they were some years ago, and congress can be depended upon to do everything that is required of this nature."

BLOW AT FLAT BUILDINGS.

Alderman Griffith, of Chicago, Wants the Old-Fashioned Home Restored.

Alderman Griffith will try to legislate the people of Chicago out of big labor-saving apartment buildings by proposing an ordinance to limit the height to four stories. He thinks there are thousands of men and women who "leave their happy homes" for the sake of ennobling themselves in some apartment building or so-called hotel. From a sociological point of view the apartment building is a bad thing, and the ordinance from the Twenty-fifth ward said such an ordinance would be salutary. He said:

"People are getting lazy living in these big apartment buildings. It destroys the home features of American citizenship, and the council should try to check such tendencies. Then these fashionable people who can afford to live in family hotels or apartment buildings give up their residences and discharge an army of domestic servants. They have no more use for their cook or chambermaid or butler, and as a friend of labor I think the individual homes should be preserved. There are too many labor-saving devices in these new-fangled apartment houses to suit me. Conveniences are all right in their way. The servant girl problem may 'cut some ice' in this question, but if we stopped these six and eight-story apartment buildings we would have more homes and more servants."

BLIND BUT SHAVES HIMSELF.

Mr. Couden, Chaplain of the House, Wields the Razor in His Own Behalf.

Recently Representative Graft was seated in a barber's chair at the capitol when a boy came in and handed the barber who was shaving him a small leather covered box. "If I should give you a hundred guesses," said the barber to the congressman, "you would not be able to tell me what this box contains." "I do not believe I could," replied Mr. Graft, "but I am curious to know what you have." "There are six razors belonging to Chaplain Couden," responded the barber, "and whenever they are dull he sends them here to be sharpened."

There would be nothing curious about this if it were not for the fact that Chaplain Couden, who is totally blind, never permits a barber to touch his face. While Dr. Couden has been blind for a number of years, it has been his practice to shave himself, and so well does he do it that he seldom if ever "catches his face," and, according to the barber's story is less liable to do so than a man who has the use of both eyes.

Back to the Rise in Price. A Canadian paper has been in a trance since Christmas. There are no details, says the St. Paul Globe, as to who sent the diamond ring.

ISLAND EXHIBITS.

Commissioner General Peck Preparing to Have Cuba and Hawaii Represented at Paris Exposition.

Commissioner General Peck is preparing for the exhibits from Cuba and Hawaii at the Paris exposition. Mr. Peck has called instructions to the American architect in Paris to complete plans for the erection of two kiosks for the separate exhibits from Cuba and Hawaii. The kiosk will be located adjoining the Manufactures building. Senior Quezada will have charge of the Cuban display under the direction of Commissioner General Peck. Both of these exhibits will be in the United States division.

The United States cruiser Prairie, which is being used to transport American exhibits to Paris, sailed from Havre for New York a few days ago. It is expected that the Prairie will make her second trip to France with a cargo of exhibits to Paris the latter part of January, and a third trip later on is a possibility.

A Puzzling Question. An Omaha paper has offered a prize of five dollars to the person who gives the best answer to the question: "How can a woman best retain her husband's affections?" If the matter can be settled in this way the five dollars will be in the judgment of the Chicago Times-Herald, have been well spent.

If It Only Could Be Arranged. The strike of the piano workers is said to be over. Now, says the Chicago Record, if some one could arrange a strike of the piano pounders the world would be happier.

Champagne. It is asserted that the wine cellars of France contain champagne enough to supply the world's demand for three years—nearly 150,000,000 bottles.

SURPRISES SOCIETY.

Ballet Dance One of the Features at a Dinner Party.

How a Cincinnati Hostess Provided Her Guests with Unique and Delightful Entertainment—Fake Dinner Is Served.

Ballet girls in Spanish costumes danced at a private dinner given by Mrs. M. Goldsmith at her home in Beecher avenue, Cincinnati, the other evening. Mrs. Goldsmith entertained about 30 ladies at cards from two until five o'clock, when all the guests were invited into the great dining-room. The table was beautifully decorated and the viands appeared to be the best, but upon investigation proved to be imitations of the real things. Everything on the table, from the flowers and fruits down to the turkeys and vegetables, were made of bisque. A beautifully decorated basket was at the side of each guest's chair to receive the fake dinner pieces which were carried away as souvenirs of the affair. After the fake dinner and its attendant fun were over the real dinner was served. The guests were surprised at the close of the banquet when the room was suddenly darkened and from unseen corner the strains of the orchestra were heard.

No sooner had the music started than two great folding doors were thrown open and in danced 30 of the prettiest ballet girls from one of the local theaters. They circled gracefully around the room, each bearing an electrically lighted cut glass plate, on which rested the ice creams. The light shone through the cream with beautiful effect. The entrance of the ballet girls caused a sensation, as the guests were totally unprepared for anything of the sort. After dancing a few minutes the girls walked on the guests, and while they were finishing the dinner the girls gave a series of beautiful ballet figures.

Mr. Goldsmith, whose wife was the evening's hostess, is a retired business man and is immensely wealthy. The idea of the burlesque dinner is borrowed from one of a like nature that he attended in Paris a short time ago, and nothing so elaborate had ever been given before in this country.

ARMY POST FOR DES MOINES.

Bill in Congress for the Establishment Near Iowa City of Part of the Standing Army.

Gen. Hull, chairman of the military affairs committee of the house, secured a favorable report upon a measure introduced by him providing for the establishment of a military post at or near Des Moines, Ia. The committee, in its report, says it is the policy of the government to abandon the smaller posts on what has been known as the frontier and to concentrate troops near larger centers of population and railroad centers. This policy will be continued, as the Indians are grouped on reservations and the necessity for small detachments of troops to protect settlers disappears.

Des Moines is one of the great railroad centers of the west, having ten roads, which, with their branches, reach every part of the state and could be used to transport troops to any point on the Mississippi or Missouri river to protect the great bridges across those streams. It is situated in the richest agricultural region in the United States, and troops can be maintained there at a minimum cost. The climate is healthful and troops can be kept at the highest efficiency, and could be thrown into any of the great cities of the middle west in a few hours at a small expense. The measure is also endorsed by the war department officials, who have asked for the establishment of a fort near Des Moines.

BIG METEOR FALLS IN OHIO.

The Strange Experience of William Albert While Working in a Field.

A strange sequel to the terrific shock of an earthquake, felt in all parts of Tuscarawas county, O., two days ago has come from the town of Pearl, situated near the county boundary, south-west of Canal Dover. The shock occurred about two p. m., and was distinctly felt here and in all parts of the county. Buildings trembled and glass was rattled in many windows. The telephone exchanges were swamped with inquiries as to the cause, but no plausible explanation could be given. William Albert, a former living near Pearl, in company with his two sons, were working in a field when the shock occurred. The father first heard a whistling sound, and, looking aloft, was terrified to see a huge burning ball flying through the heavens. The three watched the flight of the strange missile, which left a trail of smoke and flying particles in its wake. Simultaneously with its disappearance, the men distinctly felt the ground tremble beneath them and were so unnerved that they left their work and went to the house. An effort is being made to locate the spot where the missile fell, which may throw some light on the strange occurrence. It is believed to have been a meteorite of mammoth dimensions.

TORPEDO BOATS.

An Extension of Time Granted the Builders of the Vessels Authorized by Congress.

An extension of time will be granted the torpedo boat builders. It was agreed that the requests should be granted, especially as there was much difficulty in getting forgings from the steelmakers. The latter have submitted statements that they are powerless to control the matter, and the main cause is traceable to the people at the mines. The raw material cannot be produced in sufficient quantities to meet all the demands made upon the steelmakers. Another feature which prompted the authorities to comply with the requests for an extension of time was the lack of facilities for taking care of completed craft of that class. There are no means of housing or otherwise protecting torpedo boats when they are not in the water. The department has not touched the \$150,000 which congress appropriated last

year for a torpedo boat "barn," to be erected at the Boston navy yard, and which was planned to accommodate 15 or 20 boats. It is likely that the torpedo boats will be delayed fully one year, and perhaps two years.

Partiality of Santa Claus. As far as heard from, proudly says the Chicago Record, Chicago is the only city that received a nice, new river as a Christmas present.

Anti-Horse Thief Association. The Oklahoma Anti-Horse Thief association has 150 subordinate lodges and over 3,000 members.

AIDS TO PATRIOTISM.

Government Buildings in Small Towns as Educators.

Col. Marsh Advocates the Erection of a Public Building in Every City in the Country—Suggests a "Patriotic" Room.

"Instead of paying \$100,000 for public buildings in small towns," said Col. Marsh, of Warsaw, "I would limit their cost so as to construct ten or fifteen buildings for that amount. As rapidly as the receipts of the government would allow I would erect a public building in every city in the country. That would have the effect of making the people feel that they had some interest in the government. It would in a manner instill patriotism in the young people of the nation. Now they have schoolhouses, and when they go to the state capital they see the state buildings, and they are 'ours.' But in the possession of a government building they would feel that they had a direct interest in the government of which they are a part and to which they give their support.

"In each of these buildings I would have a room set aside to be used for patriotic purposes. I would permit the young people to gather there for the purpose of indulging in discussions in regard to our government. I would have the declaration of independence and the constitution painted upon the wall in such large letters that they could be seen from all sections of the room. I would have the American flag there, and a picture of Gen. Washington. It would not be necessary for the government to furnish these things, as some one would come forward and supply them. If this plan were adopted there would be a perceptible growth of patriotism on the part of American youth."

MARRIED TO WRONG ONE.

William Leary Weds a Girl at Chicago Under Her Grandmother's Name.

William Leary, of California, who breaks horseshoes and log chains into souvenirs three times a day at a Chicago museum, married a wife and lost her in three hours the other day. Returning to his hotel, his afternoon "turn" over, the young man of 23 met 18-year-old Mary Prebly in West Madison street. Within an hour he had won her to join his fortunes, wooing her with a promise to show her the trick of climbing a ladder of swords unshod. Together they rode down to the county building, took out a marriage license, and, riding back to Half street, were made man and wife by Justice Severson. Over the ice cream of the wedding dinner Mrs. Leary confessed, with a giggle, that it couldn't last long, as her grandmother's name, not her own, appeared in the license and certificate. "Good-by, grandad," she called as she ran out of the restaurant. Justice Severson, when the man rushed back into his court, declared that the marriage was legal and must stand. "Am I my wife's husband or grandfather?" demanded Leary. "I must take that question under advisement," answered the judge.

MACHINE GUNS.

Official Tests Made of Weapons for the Army—Colt Gun May Be Selected.

In a short time the war department will designate a machine gun for adoption by the army. The experiments conducted at the Springfield armory with a view to securing a highly efficient machine gun have been completed by the army ordnance officers. The hotchkiss, colt, maxim and car automatic guns were tested competitively. The report of the officers who made the experiments has not been received. It is learned, however, that the performance of the colt and hotchkiss pieces was satisfactory. The maxim and car pieces burst before the experiments had reached the stage of the endurance test, the car falling when less than 100 rounds had been fired from it. The hotchkiss and colt pieces were subjected to extremely severe endurance tests, and their performances were admirable. The hotchkiss gun fired 450 rounds in five minutes, and the manufacturers claim it could have been made ready for another such test within five minutes. The performance of the colt gun under the endurance test was satisfactory, and it is the opinion of some that this gun will be selected for the army.

The Small Boy on War.

The Atlanta Constitution prints the following as from the fertile brain of one of its youthful contributors: "War is a Cruel Thing. It makes the wimpy men 'Widders' and the Small Boys Orphanes. But Maw says some of the Men what gits Killed Ain't worth Killin'. Widders gits a pension some times when their Husbands is Killed. Pa has been in the war twice, but Maw says looks like he never will get Killed!"

Woes of the Rich.

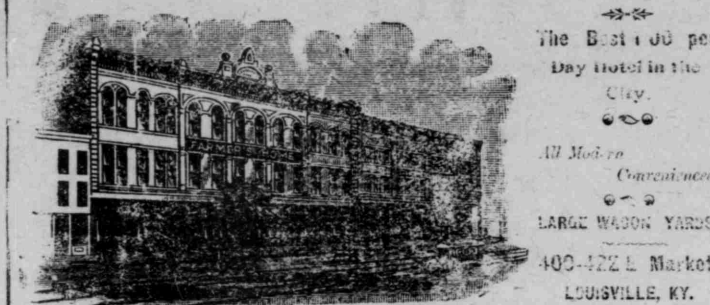
It has finally been found that the late Cornelius Vanderbilt left only \$75,000,000, instead of \$150,000,000, as was first reported. The heirs expect, however, to get some life insurance, which, with the remnants of the fortune they inherit, will probably, says the Chicago Times-Herald, enable them to worry along until the younger members of the family get old enough to support themselves.

Six Feet Tall Is Rare. Only one man in 208 is over six feet in height.

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CLEVELAND HAS LIQUID AIR. Charles F. Brush Makes Most Successful Experiment with His Machine.

Liquid air was produced in Cleveland, O., the other day by Charles F. Brush, the inventor of the electric light, nearly the whole basement of his residence in Euclid avenue being given to what is said to be one of the finest private laboratories in the world. Over a year ago Mr. Brush ordered one of the air machines for his company and another smaller one for the University of Michigan, his alma mater. This latter machine has been set up and running for some time. The erection of Mr. Brush's machine in his laboratory was just finished and it was run for the first time. Speaking of the subject, Mr. Brush said:

"It is almost impossible to conceive the coldness of liquid air. It is as much colder than ice as ice is colder than molten tin. The figures, 312 degrees below zero, give a very faint idea of its coldness. So far as I have been able to tell in the test of the machine I have been using it seems perfect. The machine at Ann Arbor has made more liquid air than the 'contract called for, and I expect this will do as well. The Ann Arbor machine has a guaranteed capacity of three-quarters of a liter an hour and overruns that considerably. This machine has a guaranteed capacity of a liter and a half, but I expect that it will produce half a gallon of liquid air an hour, or nearly that. The machine is driven by a ten-horse power gas engine run to about half its power."

Mr. Brush announced that he would use the liquid air for experimental purposes only, and that as yet he had no commercial use for it in view.

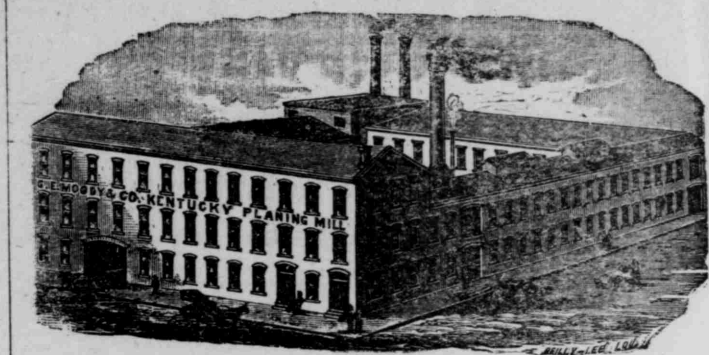
Something Expected of Them. It is the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph that suggests that automobile drivers ought to have horse sense.

The Dog's Advantage. Diplomats' dogs are not allowed to be muzzled in the District of Columbia. Thus, comments the New York Herald, the dog has more liberty than his master.

KENTUCKY PLANING MILL.

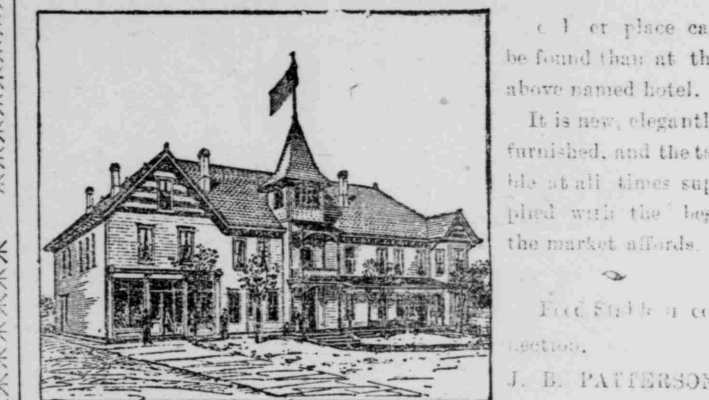
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